



## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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### **DEQ OKs water discharge permit at Chef Menteur landfill**

BATON ROUGE – The Department of Environmental Quality has issued a Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System wastewater discharge permit to Waste Management's Chef Menteur Construction and Demolition Debris Landfill located in New Orleans East.

The purpose of this permit is to allow discharge of wastewater necessary for closure of the landfill in accordance with DEQ solid waste regulations. This is the first step necessary for the landfill to permanently close. The permit authorizes the discharge of non-contact stormwater and landfill wastewater into Maxent Canal, where it is then pumped into the Intracoastal Waterway. The discharge must meet permit limits based on criteria and federal guidelines for non-hazardous landfills.

The Chef Menteur site had been approved as a construction and demolition debris landfill prior to the hurricanes of 2005. However, it was not developed because of zoning issues. After the storms, the site was developed and the landfill briefly received construction and demolition debris resulting from the storms.

The wastewater must meet all required permit limits when discharged. The expected flow is approximately 500,000 gallons per day. The process is estimated to take three to six months, weather permitting. The discharge will be treated by retention, flocculation and recirculation as needed. The facility is required to take discharge samples to ensure it is meeting the requirements of the permit. In the advent of severe weather conditions during the 2008 hurricane season, the dewatering necessary for closure of the facility will likely take longer, depending on the amount of rainfall and other factors.

Tropical Storm Gustav is imminently expected to impact Louisiana's coastal parishes and a state of emergency has, for that reason, been declared. Prior to the advent of Tropical Storm Gustav, the permit process was nearly completed. Issuance of this permit at this time is nonetheless still prudent because its terms are protective of human health and the environment, and any discharges from the permitted facility would have to meet established limits.